

the opposite. Many companies realize that as we move to clean energy, their path to profitability depends on adapting to those changes. Hard-right MAGA Republicans—climate deniers, they are—are trying to straitjacket those companies with their ideological obsessions and prevent them from adapting to the future for their own good and for the good of the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

CRIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a growing share of American citizens across the political spectrum say tackling rampant crime must be a top priority. And it is certainly no mystery why they feel that way. Just take my own hometown. One neighborhood in East Louisville just endured more than 30 burglaries in 30 days.

Last year, Washington, DC, saw 203 homicides. Those victims included 18 children, a huge increase over the prior year.

And 2023 is already off to an even worse start. Homicides and carjackings are already ahead of last year's pace. Last week, the city's crime wave touched Congress directly. A Congresswoman from Minnesota, Representative ANGIE CRAIG, was attacked in the elevator of her own apartment building right here in the District.

It turns out the Congresswoman's attacker had been arrested and convicted no fewer than 12 times before, most recently for assaulting a Metropolitan police officer. But there he was, this career criminal, just out roaming the streets.

As the Congresswoman herself put it afterwards:

We have to get these repeat offenders off the street.

You are darn right we do. Unfortunately, the radical local government here is doing precisely the opposite.

The DC Council has responded to the crime wave—listen to this—with a new bill to make the city even softer on crime. It lowers maximum penalties for violent crimes and creates new ways to shorten the sentences of incarcerated felons.

Well, the good news is the Constitution actually gives the U.S. Congress final say over issues in our Nation's Capital. And when the soft-on-crime local government has become completely incompetent; when Members of Congress can't go about their daily lives without being attacked; when families cannot come to visit our cap-

ital in safety, then it is about time the Federal Government provides some adult supervision.

Senate Republicans, led by our colleague from Tennessee BILL HAGERTY, are leading an effort to use the rightful authority of Congress to address this emergency.

Last week, the Republican House passed their companion bill as well. And things have gotten so undeniably bad that more than 30 House Democrats crossed the aisle to support it.

So I hope the Senate Democratic leader will put partisanship aside and turn to Senator HAGERTY's measure quickly when we reconvene. The safety and security of our citizens simply cannot wait.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, Putin's brutal war on Ukraine has forced both us Americans and our friends in Europe to take a long, hard look at our country's commitments to military spending and self-defense.

NATO and the West have let important capabilities actually atrophy over time: like defense funding; like military modernization; like looking after our defense industrial base, which creates good American jobs, ensures our own security, and allows us to be the arsenal for our friends and allies.

It serves America's core national interests for us to exercise strong leadership in the world. Our security and Europe's security are interlinked. Our economies are intertwined. But the rest of NATO must do more to follow our lead: increase defense spending, upgrade their capabilities, and put skin in the game.

Tomorrow, I will be taking this message directly to our European friends in person. With a number of our colleagues, I will be traveling to the Munich Security Conference. I will come as a staunch supporter of NATO, but I will also come with homework assignments for our European friends. I will speak as a friend, but I will speak frankly.

Hard power is what kept the peace during the Cold War. Our allies simply have to reinvest in hard power. In the short term, both America and our allies need to serve our own interests by investing in the munitions and weapons systems that will help Ukraine defeat the invasion.

But this chapter of realism and resolve can't end with Ukraine, because the long-term threats and challenges that we face actually go much deeper. A nuclear-armed Russia poses a threat to the United States and to NATO. And China poses an even greater threat still to American interests and those of our allies.

These challenges are multifaceted; they are global; and they are actually only growing. So I look forward to talking to our allies in Munich, both about America's resolve to lead and Europe's responsibility to shoulder more of the load.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on one final matter, yesterday, the Judiciary Committee witnessed another disaster of a performance from one of President Biden's nominees. This time, the President wants a lifetime appointment for a New Hampshire lawyer who represented an ultra-elite private high school against a 15-year-old girl who was suing the school after she had been sexually assaulted on campus.

Lawyers serve unpopular tasks all the time, but while representing the powerful prep school, Michael Delaney subjected the teenage victim and her family to unusually aggressive hardball tactics. They were, frankly, shocking.

The young lady and her family had hoped to file a lawsuit anonymously as Jane Doe and persuade the school to change its ways. That was the path to accountability. But Mr. Delaney fought the girl's desire for privacy and anonymity to use as a weapon against her. He said he would only let the girl remain anonymous if she was subjected to a gag order about the incident. And he threatened that if the family refused to settle on terms favorable to the school and went to trial, he would ask the court to reveal her name. In other words, Delaney tried to turn a teenage victim's privacy into a hostage to help a prep school avoid accountability. The girl's father saw Delaney's behavior for what it was. He called it a "threat."

The victim says she spoke to the Biden Department of Justice while they were vetting Mr. Delaney. Apparently, the administration ignored her. So, apparently, did her two Senators. According to the Boston Globe, the victim's parents pleaded their case against Delaney to both our colleagues from New Hampshire. But instead of taking the family's pain to heart, both of their Senators returned blue slips anyway. They even personally introduced Delaney at his hearing.

Democrats have long claimed they want empathy in their judges. I prefer, frankly, neutrality and faithfulness to the Constitution, myself, but empathy is what liberals say they want. I defy anyone to watch yesterday's hearing and find one ounce of empathy in Delaney for this child victim.

My colleagues across the aisle will have to catch a rerun because almost none—listen to this—almost none of the Judiciary Committee Democrats could even bring themselves to show up for yesterday's hearing. They avoided the hearing. They didn't want to hear it.

But guess who did attend. The brave young woman's family was there. They wanted Delaney to know they will never forget how he treated their daughter.

So I would urge the President to reconsider this nomination and urge my colleagues to reject it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.